

Forrestal matter (1945-46, 1948)

Origins of the Central Intelligence Group

In the planning for America's postwar intelligence organization in 1944-45, Secretary of the Navy Forrestal was privy to the various proposals that were under development and study within the military establishment and the civilian agencies that shared responsibility for the National security.

Forrestal was a principal advocate of the concept of central intelligence for achieving necessary inter-agency cooperation, providing services of common concern, and insuring the coordination of intelligence evaluations.

Forrestal had the advice of naval and military intelligence officers long experienced in intelligence, ^{as well as} ~~He also used~~ civilian advisers in the Navy Department. ^{Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers and Major} For example, Matthias F. Correa, and ~~William H. Jackson~~ worked with him on postwar intelligence planning, and ^{William H. Jackson} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^a ~~civilian~~ ^{adviser}.

With World War II ended, in September 1945, and with the OSS liquidated as an intelligence organization, Secretary Forrestal became a vigorous negotiator, within the counsels of Government, for re-examining and reconciling the various civilian and military intelligence plans that had been developed.

In October and November 1945 Forrestal initiated and participated in various inter-agency consultations, within the military establishment and at the Cabinet level, for achieving the consensus that culminated in the President's executive order of 22 January 1946, by which the National Intelligence Authority (NIA) and the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) were established.

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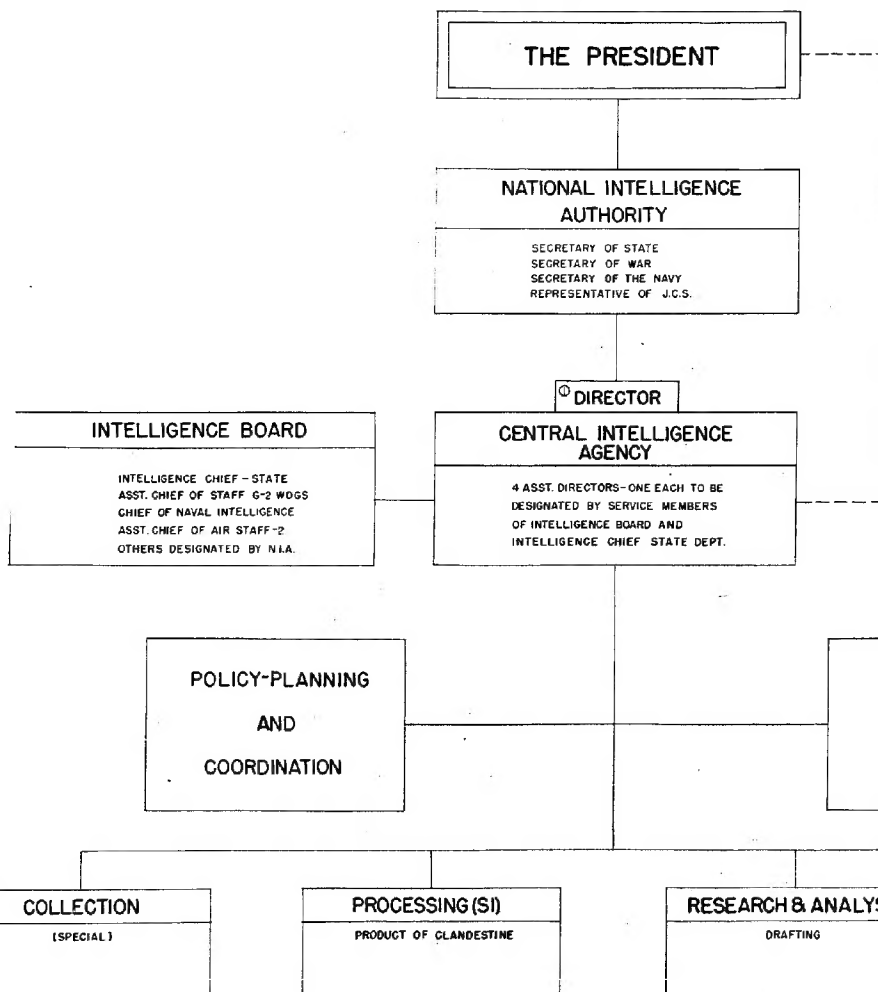
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Secretary Forrestal himself in January 1946 became a member of the Cabinet-level NIA, along with Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, and Admiral William D. Leahy of President Truman's staff. Forrestal served in the NIA until it was replaced, in the reorganization of September 1947, by the National Security Council.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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